launched, on a pilot basis, with the objective of providing opportunities to the youth to participate in, and contribute to the process of nation-building and national reconstruction.

The Scheme would provide youth—who are naturally inspired by patriotism—with avenues of creative and constructive work, suited to their educational background, aptitude and interest. The NRC volunteers, during deployment on specific projects, would be imparted skill-development training to help them in finding their vocations at the appropriate stage.

Programmes under the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and the National Service Scheme, amongst others, are also being actively implemented, including in the rural areas, to channelize the energies and enthusiasm of the youth in a purposeful and positive direction.

Awareness Campaign about Environment in North-East

996. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a plan to intensify awareness campaign relating to environment in 1999-2000 in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, in what way the programme is to be taken up; and

(c) the number of NGOs involved in this programme, State-wise, with names?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The National Environment Awareness Campaign which covers the entire country has been intensified in the North-East Region during the last two years. The thrust on the North-East Region has continued during the 1999-2000 campaign also, which is already in an advanced stage of implementation. This is evident from the increase in the number of organisations participating in the campaign.

(c) State-wise list of NGOs involved in this programme during 1999-2000 is given in the Annexure [*See* Appendix 188, Annexure no. 29]